

Hudson casino at a time when it will “be given meaningful consideration in BIA’s review of this application.”

The following day, March 3, O’Connor sent a fax to Collier in which he expressed concern that “this application is moving so swiftly that there [would] not be time enough for [the St. Croix] to get the results of [the] Coopers & Lybrand analysis into Interior’s decision-making process.”¹⁶⁴ O’Connor requested that he, Corcoran and Kitto be permitted to meet with Collier the following week.

O’Connor, Kitto and Corcoran met with Collier and Heather Sibbison, Duffy’s assistant, on March 15, 1995. According to Corcoran’s March 17 memo to Kitto, Collier committed to giving them additional time to submit a Coopers & Lybrand report so that the impact on their client could be appropriately evaluated by Skibine and by Collier for Secretary Babbitt. Corcoran recalls – and his memo reflects – that Collier said the final decision would be made by Collier or the Secretary “depending on the level of controversy this application generate[d].”¹⁶⁵ Corcoran told investigators he took the lead on behalf of the opponents in the meeting. In interviews, Corcoran said that during the meeting, O’Connor and Kitto told Collier and Sibbison that the tribes he represented were “good Democrats” – a phrase that Corcoran understood to be “code”

¹⁶⁴In accordance with their work routine, Corcoran authored and sent this fax on O’Connor’s behalf.

¹⁶⁵Corcoran understood this remark to be an indication that the opponents needed to increase the appearance of controversy surrounding the Hudson application. O’Connor does not recall a comment about the level of controversy. He remembers Collier saying his role would be to make a recommendation and discuss it with the Secretary.